

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LONDON 05896 181934 Z

70- S

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 (ADP) W

----- 106161

P 181927 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1317

INFO DOD WASHDC PRIORITY

S E C R E T LONDON 05896

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINR, MARR, UK, US

SUBJECT: COBRA MIST

REF: STATE 90068

1. EMBOFF MET 18 MAY WITH DAVIDSON, FCO DEFENSE DEPT HEAD, AT LATTER' S REQUEST. DAVIDSON HAD READ ADMIRAL LEBAILLY' S REPORT OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH MESSRS. MCCOLL AND KENT AND EXPRESSED CONCERN US AND HMG MOVING RAPIDLY TOWARD MAJOR DECISIONS ON COBRA MIST PROJECT WHICH, IF THEY LED TO PHASEDOWN OR DEACTIVATION OF FACILITY WITHOUT CAREFUL PLANNING AND MISSIONARY WORK WITH BOTH PARLIAMENT AND LOCAL POPULACE, COULD CAUSE SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS. IMPRESSION LEBAILLY HAS GIVEN ON RETURN LONDON IS THAT USAF NOT RPT NOT PROGRAMING FUNDS FOR COBRA MIST OPERATION IN FY74 AND THAT ONLY OPTIONS AVAILABLE ARE EITHER PHASEOUT OR CONTINUED FULL OPERATION AT BRITISH EXPENSE. LATTER CONSIDERED NONSTARTER AS HMG UNDERSTANDS CONSIDERABLE CAPITAL INVESTMENT AS WELL AS MAJOR OPERATING EXPENSE WOULD BE INVOLVED.

2. DAVIDSON NATURALLY WONDERED WHETHER OTHER LESS RADICAL ALTERNATIVES MIGHT NOT ALSO BE POSSIBLE. EMBOFF NOTED MCCOLL- LEBAILLY TALK WAS INFORMAL ONE, THAT NO DECISION MADE, AND THAT ALL OPTIONS WILL OF COURSE BE CONSIDERED. NOTWITHSTANDING THIS, DAVIDSON SAID, TIME IS SHORT, AND WE MUST BEGIN DISCUSSING FACILITY' S FUTURE WITHOUT DELAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LONDON 05896 181934 Z

3. FCO IS ASKING BRITISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO
RAISE FUTURE OF COBRA MIST WITH DEPARTMENT EARLY
NEXT WEEK. WE GATHER THIS DOES NOT RPT NOT IN
ANY WAY REFLECT UNHAPPINESS OVER WAY PROGRAM UN-
CERTAINTIES HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO HMG BUT IS MERELY
FACT FINDING MISSION DESIGNED ENSURE ALL PARTIES
BE FULLY JOINED IN CONSIDERATION FUTURE OF FACILITY.

4. UNDERSTAND MOD WORKING " FULL OUT" TO MEET 5 JUNE
USAF TARGET FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TECHNICAL AS-
PECTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE OPERATING OPTIONS.

ANNENBERG

NOTE BY OC/ T: RAISED TO EXDIS PER MR. FRY, S/ S- O.

SECRET
NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LONDON05896
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730547/aaaajtc.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 90068
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 980219
Subject: COBRA MIST
TAGS: MARR, PINR, UK, US
To: DOD WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005